

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently amended) A device for feeding an essentially rectangular piece of cloth to a feeder comprising

a boom extending transversely of the direction of conveyance of the feeder, and wherein the boom comprises a boom conveyor for conveying the piece of cloth across the boom in the longitudinal direction thereof, wherein the piece of cloth stretches across the boom,

said ~~feeder~~ device having, at one end of the boom, a first feed conveyor having a feeding end situated in front of the boom seen in the direction of conveyance of the feeder,

the feed conveyor designed to receive, at the feeding end, a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and transfer the piece of cloth therefrom to the boom conveyor, and

a first turning device provided between the boom conveyor and the end of the feed conveyor opposite the feeding end for turning and transferring the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the feed conveyor to the boom conveyor.

12. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 11, wherein the boom has an opposite end, and a second feed conveyor is located at the opposite end of the boom and a second turning device provided between the boom conveyor and the second feed conveyor.

13. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein the second feed conveyor has a feeding end, and each feeding end is located between the ends of the boom when it is receiving a piece of cloth.

14. (Previously presented) A device according to any one of claims 11-13, wherein the angle between the direction of the first feed conveyor and the direction of conveyance of the feeder is in a range between 190° and 260° , and that the turning device is configured for receiving the front edge of the piece of cloth from the first feed conveyor and then turn the front edge of the piece of cloth through an angle in the aforesaid range, the front edge being subsequently received by the boom conveyor.

15. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each feed conveyor, each turning device, and the boom conveyor are independent units each having a securing means and guide.

16. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each feed conveyor comprises two parallel conveyor belts that run synchronously.

17. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein each turning device comprises a pair of mutually independently operating squeezers.

18. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 12, wherein the boom conveyor comprises a tilting squeezer device having one pair of squeezers being able to securely squeeze pieces of cloth from the first turning device and another pair of squeezers being able to securely squeeze pieces of cloth from the second turning device.

19. (Previously presented) A device according to any one of claims 12 and 16-18, further comprising a separate guide means for each feed conveyor and having

an extension oriented in the same direction as the direction of conveyance of the respective feed conveyor; whereby the piece of cloth is, by the transfer of the piece of cloth by the respective turning device from the feed conveyor to the boom, conveyed across the respective guide means, and thereby avoiding that adverse folds are imparted to the piece of cloth prior to transferring the piece of cloth to the boom conveyor.

20. (Previously presented) A method of feeding essentially a rectangular piece of cloth to a feeder, comprising the steps of:

feeding when in a feeding position, a straightened front edge of the piece of cloth to a feed conveyor,

transporting the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth to a second position, seizing by a turning device the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and turning with an essentially horizontal movement the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth from the second position to a third position, and

taking by a boom conveyor when in the third position the straightened front edge of the piece of cloth and

conveying it across a boom.

21. (Previously presented) A device according to claim 14, wherein the range is preferably between 210° and 240°.